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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

July 26, 1994

TO: Ambassador Albright
THRU: Ambassador Gnehm
Ambassador Inderfurth
FROM: POL - Cameron Hume
SUBJECT: July 26 Security Council Informals: Rwanda and Burundi
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RELEASED IN FULL

BACKGROUND - RWANDA

U/SYG Gharekhan will provide another briefing on the situation in Kigali, the humanitarian relief operation and the status of the UN's efforts to deploy UNAMIR. Ladsous may supplement that report with news from the French-protected areas.

Our primary objective now is to see the return of Rwanda's refugees to their homes. U.S. strategy is built around three elements--meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of the refugees in Zaire; identifying and deploying forces from western countries for UNAMIR; and providing the necessary equipment for African forces already identified.

Yesterday in the Council we outlined these steps and called on members to do their best in each area. Countries have been generous in pledging assistance for humanitarian relief in Zaire (much more is still needed). But UNAMIR remains dangerously under-staffed and under-equipped. In your remarks to the Council, it is worth reiterating our calls for assistance, emphasizing the need for readily deployable units for UNAMIR. The French remind the Council daily that their withdrawal from the safe area will be completed by August 21.

Attached is a fact sheet detailing U.S. contributions to the relief effort, and a list of forces and equipment already committed to UNAMIR.

TALKING POINTS - RWANDA

- o There is no need to remind Council members of the enormous suffering in Rwanda, or of the urgency behind our efforts to deploy a fully functioning peacekeeping force.
- o Every day that UNAMIR is not fully functioning is another day that refugees are unable to return. Yesterday, Rick Inderfurth told you of the steps taken by the U.S., including letters from President Clinton urging some two dozen heads of state to provide military units capable of operating with ours to deliver humanitarian assistance.

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- o The President also urged them, either alone or in concert with others, to deploy a peacekeeping contingent of their own forces to UNAMIR.
- o I therefore urge all members of the Security Council who can provide humanitarian assistance to the Rwandan refugees or help to make UNAMIR a fully functioning force to do so.

BACKGROUND - BURUNDI

At the request of several Council members, Gharekhan will also brief on the situation in Burundi. Although the level of violence in Burundi has remained relatively low, political and ethnic tensions continue to run high. Understandably, the Council is concerned that the situation not be allowed to deteriorate. There are disturbing rumors of an extremist Hutu-run radio station operating in Burundi.

The main issue in Burundi is succession talks between the interim government and the opposition. Although some progress has been made, the succession issue itself remains unresolved, forcing an extension of the interim presidency for up to three more months. So far, the Tutsi opposition has won all the concessions, getting 40 percent of all civil and diplomatic posts, forcing the recall of partisan (mostly Hutu) ambassadors, and pushing efforts to disarm Hutu civilians and arrest Hutu administrators implicated in the reprisal attacks on Tutsis last October.

The UN has delayed issuing a report based on an April fact-finding mission, sent at the request of the SYG, because they fear its conclusions could further destabilize the situation. Since the report is already out of date, there is no need to insist that it be issued now.

The Secretariat is urging members to consider a UNSC presidential statement urging the parties to negotiate in good faith and resolve their differences peacefully. The Department is likely to look upon such a statement favorably as long as it does not single out one party for criticism, and calls for the respect of democratic will with due regard for the rights of minorities.

TALKING POINT - BURUNDI

- o Thank you for that report. It is especially timely for the Council to receive such a briefing now, before the situation truly deteriorates, and while we have the opportunity to consider the necessary steps to address the situation most constructively.

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- o My government continues to follow developments in Burundi with deep concern. We understand how affected Burundi is by the civil strife of neighboring Rwanda, as well as bearing the burden of Rwandan refugees.
- o However, we hope that Burundi will remember the importance of not seeking solutions through the democratic process, recalling not only the trauma of their neighbor, but also their own civil strife last year.
- o We call on all parties in Burundi to persist in negotiations through U.N. channels towards filling the presidential vacancy and working out their disagreements through peaceful means.

OTHER MATTERS

UNSC working group yesterday produced a draft Presidential statement on stand-by peace-keeping arrangements. If the issue comes up we should defer discussion since we have not received clearance from Washington to join consensus on the text.

Attachment:

Fact sheets

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